

Before returns true in a layout procedure and script before the layout is displayed on screen or printed. The Before phase is usually used to initialize variables and fields before the layout is displayed.

If an input layout contains an included layout, a Before phase is first generated for each included record or subrecord that is displayed. Then the Before phase is generated for the parent record. A Before phase is then generated for any record that is scrolled into view by the user. A Before phase is also generated for any new record or subrecord in an included layout, whether in the multi-line layout or the full-page layout.

When you are printing with PRINT ELECTION or from the Print menu in the User environment, a Before phase is generated before a record is printed. The Before phase for each record or subrecord in an included layout is generated after the parent record's Before phase. This is the opposite order from that of data entry. This order allows a selection of records or subrecords for the included layout to be made in the Before phase of the parent record. If you want the Before phase of a script to be called make sure that the Script Only if Modified check box is unchecked.

When you are displaying a selection on screen with DISPLAY ELECTION or MODIFY ELECTION, or in the User environment, Before and during are true simultaneously as each record is displayed.

The following example sorts a selection of subrecords before the layout is displayed:

```
Case of  
  : (Before)  
    ` Sort the children into ascending order  
    SORT SUBSELECTION ([Parents]Children; [Parents]Children'First name; >)  
End case
```

See also: DISPLAY ELECTION, MODIFY ELECTION, PRINT ELECTION